

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 8, 14, 20, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yamashita. To anticipate a claim all of the limitations of the claim must be found either expressly or inherently in the four corners of the reference.

Independent claims 8 and 14 recite an actuator coupled to a second finger. The Examiner identifies item 25 in Figure 9 of Yamashita as an actuator. The Examiner noted that the claim required no specific function for the actuator. The Applicant has amended the claims to recite an actuator that causes relative movement between the first and second fingers to grasp the fiber optic cable. Item 25 shown in Figure 9 of Yamashita clearly does not cause relative movement between two fingers to grasp a fiber. Likewise, Yamashita does not disclose actuating a gripper to cause relative movement between fingers to grasp the fiber optic cable as recited in claim 23. For these reasons the Applicant submits that Yamashita does not anticipate claims 8, 14, 20, 22 and 23.

Claim 20 has been amended to recite a pin that extends across a space between the first and second fingers as recited in allowed claim 1. The Applicant submits that the prior art does not disclose the language recited in claim 20.

The Examiner rejected claims 9, 15, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita in view of Hattori. The Applicant submits that these claims are allowable for being dependent on allowable independent claims.

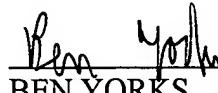
In view of the above it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-24 at an early date is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: January 24, 2005

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Date